2: Caroe S-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

in the north, and becoming more and more barren with the southern latitude until it merges with the Betpak Dala. But, as the caravan goes north, the traveller reaches first the low hills of the Ulu Tav and Orta Tav, excellent seasonal pasturage when the snows melt, and the favourite summer resort of the Kipchak clans, from whom many of the true Uzbeks, Kazaks and Bashkurds trace descent. As he goes north, the pastures in spring become greener and are starred with flowers, the north of Kazakistan being in the temperate zone, and enjoying a precipitation sufficient to support agriculture and tree-growth. Almost all the well-known specie tulips of our gardens have their home on these steppe-lands. The best recent description in English of this land comes from the American pen of Littlepage: [1]

> We pushed along day after day through some of the finest pasture land I have ever seen, all well-watered, with rivers and lakes enough to support herds which probably could feed the whole of Europe . . . plateaus brilliant with green grass and sprinkled with multicolored wild flowers. The weather was warm and the skies cloudless and the only drawback the clouds of mosquitoes which gave us little peace.

There is a geographical feature of this steppe which at some future time may be of great account. Round about latitude 51 degrees there is an imperceptible west to east watershed, north of which all the waters flow towards the Arctic Ocean. From west to east the rivers are Tobol, Ishim and Irtish, all headwaters of the great Arctic river Ob. There are those who think in terms of a possible diversion of water running to waste in the Arctic Ocean to fertilize the arid deserts of Turkistan.

Another fact of geography looming large in the thought of all who write of Turkistan is the broad Vale of Farghana or Kokand, the heart of the scanty oasis country of Transoxiana. Schuyler [2] in 1876 described in vivid language the contrast between the desert and the sown, saying that even in Zarafshan

[1] Bib. I, 62, p. 185.

[2] *Op. cit.* i, 284.

2: Caroe 5-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

and Farghana, the most fertile regions, it was possible then to ride long distances without so much as seeing a blade of verdure, so small was the extent of country irrigated by the rivers. Since then much has been achieved, but even now it would be instructive and curious to see a map of these regions on which the arable lands were carefully marked, so narrow would be the strips along the rivers and at the foot of the mountains. In Farghana the irrigated areas, and even the *lalmi*[1] lands dependent on rainfall, cover broader acres than elsewhere in Turkistan. Its predominance as the agricultural, and now one of the industrial, centres of this country has a certain inevitability. The surrounding mountains with their fertilizing streams give it a climate relatively mild in summer and winter, and an alluvial soil on the deposits which fan out from the river mouths. In these oases intensive cultivation by a large population has always been possible — the cluster of townships is apparent from any map. The lie of the land has favoured the construction of many ancient irrigation channels, now supplemented by great modern works. Climate, latitude and water provide exactly the right environment for the cultivation of cotton and of the mulberry-trees on which the silk-worm thrives. The rapid transition from high mountain valley to open plain offers many natural sites for the harnessing of water-power for the production of electricity. The more recent discovery of oil and coal and quantities of valuable non-ferrous and other mineral resources in and around the valley, combined with the Soviet policy of moving textile factories to the site of production of raw material, has given it a new industrial significance not lost upon any who contemplate this land. Kokand, its old capital, and the hills around the valley were the main focus of the Basmachi movement of 1918–24 for the independence of Turkistan.

In its way the natural beauty of the oasis country is greater and certainly more intense than that of the steppe

[1] It is interesting to note that the Eastern Turks use here the same word as the Pathans of Peshawar for unirrigated cropped land. They also use *kashar*, a helping party of friends at harvest-time, and *baranta*, a raid and seizure of an enemy's flocks to indemnify oneself for a wrong; both words in common use in Pashtu.

2: Caroe S-4 (no date) 1953 RL1 Soviet Central Asia RL1

justifiable. Nor is it ordinarily economic to transmit power over very long distances by cable.

SUMMARY

311 The industrial picture of Turkistan emerging from all this has certain very distinguishable features and falls into clear geographical compartments.

(*a*) There is one area which industry, agriculture and population all mark out as the strategic heart of Turkistan. This is the relatively small ellipse centred on the Farghana basin, including its outlying glacis with Tashkent to the north-west, Samarkand to the west and the Vakhsh valley with Stalinabad to the south. This is the heart of the oasis country where the large towns are grouped, whence comes most of the cotton and the silk, and where also are found valuable deposits of oil and coal, many non-ferrous metals and rare minerals.

(*b*) The area in the middle of Kazakistan holds the third greatest coal-fields in the Union as well as the largest copper deposits and smelting works — Karaganda, Kunrad, Jezkazgan.

(*c*) The Emba area, north-east of the Caspian, with fields at Guryev and pipe-line to Orsk, is the third most important oil producer in the Union. First of course is Baku, and second the Ural fields round Ishimbay, both in territory once inhabited by Turkish peoples, but outside the five Central Asian republics.

(*d*) The port at Krasnovodsk with the oilfields at Nebit Dagh.

(*e*) The string of extensive piedmontane oases north of the Tienshan, viz. Alma Ata, Frunze (Pishpek), Jambul (Aulie Ata) and Chimkent.

All these are situated on an exposed flank, in peripheral territories annexed to the Empire and relatively close to an international frontier. The impression is one of a country as large as the main block of Europe but with industry and agriculture concentrated into quite a few well-marked areas, defined either by the rivers or by discoveries of minerals.

167 the path of the offensive action of our armies, that is, along the main road from Semipalatinsk, through Kopal, Vernyi (Alma Ata), and further to Auliye-Ata (Dzhambul), along the northern piedmont of the Dzungarian and Trans-Ili Alatau and the Alexander Range. The influx of new settlers impelled the local administration to allot them land further south. Thus in a short time the eastern half of the shore of lake Issyk Kul was studded with Russian villages and hamlets. In addition a large settlement rose up on the upper Tekes (Okhotnichiya sloboda) from which some families split off and settled at the entrance to the Muzart pass.

/386/ It is now being suggested that colonists be sent further south, to the bottom of the Tien-Shan massif, to settle the fertile valleys of Dzhumgal On-archi, Ottuka, Kurtki, Togus-Torau, and Ketmen-Tyube. Still farther south along the valley of At-Basha and Kara-Koyuna there are also places favorable to sedentary life. However, because of the elevation [311] of these valleys (7000 feet) wheat will not always grow successfully, and in addition the cold sets in early (in August). Sedentary life cannot spread further south along the valleys of Ak-Say and Myudurun. Here the fertile pasture places attract the nomads only in the two summer months after which they take their flocks down to lower valleys.

167 563 One can judge the success of the colonizing movement in Semirechie by the fact that at the time the region was founded there were 20 small villages in the oblast' altogether and the Russian population was 30,000. Now there are 65 small villages in the oblast'

3: Czaplicka E-4 (no date) 1918 RL4 Turkic Peoples
Turkestan RL1

APPENDIX A

311 When speaking of 'Central Asian riches', it is understood to mean all the natural resources found in what is called Russian Central Asia. In particular, one stretch of land deserves the reputation of possessing a value surpassing all known colonial possessions. This is the part inhabited by various Turkic-speaking people, stretching from the mouth of the Ob on the Arctic, through the forest, agricultural and cattle-breeding regions of Western Siberia, the Steppe country and Turkestan, as far south as the frontiers of Persia.

In commercial value this area represents—rich fishing in the sub-Arctic region; rare fur animals in the forest region; valuable timber, of which in Western Siberia alone some 110 million dessiatins were registered by the Russian Government; rich cornfields, almost half of which are occupied by wheat; steppes swarming with cattle, and lakes abundant in fish; mountains rich in minerals; and finally, the irrigated fields of Turkestan covered with cotton plantations, not to mention such promising industries as butter and eggs, fruit and vegetables.

135 As to the minerals, the 'Golden' or Altai Mountains, as well as the Northern Steppes are equally rich in gold, silver, iron, coal, copper, and almost all known mineral resources. However, in the production of gold it is Eastern Siberia which occupies first place in the Russian Empire (in 1910 it produced 2,828 puds; in 1914, 2,729 puds); the second place belongs to the Ural Mountains (in 1910, 642 puds; in 1914, 299 puds), and Western Siberia stands third (in 1910, 416 puds; in 1914, 133 puds). This can be accounted for chiefly by the lack of enterprise and capital. The chief deposits of gold in Western Siberia are in the following